

REMARKS

The Office Action addresses claims 2-17. Claims 9-11 and 14 are allowed. Claims 2-8, 13 and 15-17 stand rejected. Claim 12 is objected to, and is indicated as containing allowable subject matter. By the foregoing, Claims 2-7, 12, 13, 15 and 16 are amended. Claims 8 and 17 are cancelled. In light of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks, withdrawal of the rejections and reconsideration of the claims are courteously solicited.

Claims 8, 13 and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Riepler U.S. Patent No. 5 944 335. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 8 has been cancelled, and Claim 13 is amended to depend from Claim 12, which has been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The following discussion addresses Claim 16.

Riepler '335 discloses a sliding device, in particular a ski, having a carrying structure as well as a core at least substantially rigidly connected therewith, and a binding carrier arranged above the core in the longitudinal middle portion of the sliding device. The binding carrier is disclosed as comprising two separate pedestals 4, shown in Figures 2 and 3 that projected above the upper surface of the sliding device. The pedestals may be provided with threaded pocket bores (not illustrated) to accommodate fastening screws for structural parts of ski bindings (column 7, lines 11-14). Riepler does not disclose a sliding board or method for production thereof wherein anchoring elements are integrally formed with rail-type guiding elements running longitudinally on the surface of the sliding board, the anchoring elements being retained within the foam core by the hardened foam, as required by amended Claim 16. Further, Riepler '335 does not disclose anchoring elements of first and second rail-type guiding elements being connected by a connecting element, as required by amended Claim 16. Riepler '335 does not disclose all the elements of the amended claims. Further, there is no suggestion in Riepler '335, nor in the prior art, to lead one

of ordinary skill in the art to add a connector between anchoring elements of the rail-type guiding elements of the claimed invention. Therefore, Claim 16 should be considered patentable over Riepler '335. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of Claim 16 are respectfully requested.

Claims 15, 17 and 2-7 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Riepler '335. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 17 is cancelled.

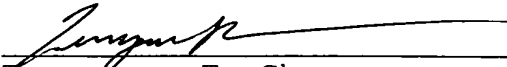
The discussion of Riepler '335 above, with respect to Claim 16, is repeated here. Riepler '335 does not disclose a connecting element connecting anchoring elements inserted into first and second rail-type guiding elements, the anchoring elements and the connecting element being integrated into the core when it is foamed, in direct contact with the foam, and retained by the hardened foam, as required by amended Claim 15. Instead, Riepler '335 discloses threaded pocket bores for receiving screws, the screws not being retained by the hardened foam. There is no teaching or suggestion to retain anchoring elements and a connecting element by the foam, nor would it have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Riepler '335 to include this feature. Accordingly, Claim 15 should be considered patentable over Riepler '335. Claims 2-7 depend from Claim 15 and should be considered patentable therewith. Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

Claim 12 has been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. It has been rewritten in independent form as suggested. Claim 13 depends from Claim 12.

In light of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the claims remaining in the application should be considered in condition for allowance and early notice of allowability is courteously solicited. If necessary to further prosecution of

the application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representatives listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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